124-90110-10090 2022 RELEASE UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS ACT OF 1992

JFK Assassination System Identification Form

Date:

6/2/2015

Agency Information

AGENCY:

: FBI

RECORD NUMBER: 124-90110-10090

RECORD SERIES:

HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER:

CR 105-75663-27

Document Information

ORIGINATOR: FBI

FROM: MM

TO: HQ

TITLE:

DATE:

06/01/1959

PAGES:

41

SUBJECTS:

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA RUBEN OSCAR MIRO GUARDIA

DOCUMENT TYPE:

PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Secret RESTRICTIONS: 1A; 4 CURRENT STATUS: Redact

DATE OF LAST REVIEW:

01/15/1999

OPENING CRITERIA:

INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF CIA

COMMENTS:

**ŘPT** 

MM 97-261 . LLS:bna

### CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

For information of all offices, RUBEN MIRO, according to CIA, has served as a source of information for CIA, but at no time has CIA controlled his activities nor been in a position to give him guidance. The subject was imprisoned for 35 months in Panama and was subsequently acquitted of the assassination of Panamanian President JOSE ANTONIO REMON. The subject has emerged as a revolutionary figure opposed to the present Panamanian Government headed by President ERNESTO de la GUARDIA, JR. MIRO is a first cousin of ROBERTO E ARIAS GUARDIA, a Panamanian revolutionary figure who, in April, 1959, took refuge in the Brazilian Embassy in Panama City, Panama as he was being sought by Panamanian authorities.

For information of all offices, MIRO has been in contact with RALPH MC CLAIN, a known CLA/ representative who resides in Panama City, Panama. MC CLAIN came to Miami from Panama April 22, 1959, and attempted to contact MIRO. However, he was not aware that MIRO had departed for New York City April 21, 1959. MC CLAIN (S) contacted JOSEPH MEROLA, Miami source furnishing information on a voluntary, confidential basis, who is a close associate of MIRO MC CLAIN did not reveal his official identity to MEROLA; however, in view of MIRO's previous admissions regarding MC CLAIN MEROLA suspects MC CLAIN as an intelligence agent. MEROLA stated that MC CLAIN had told him he is an insurance

MEROLA stated MC CLAIN checked out of the Ankara Motel, Miami Beach, Florida, April 22, 1959, and indicated that he was returning to Panama.

However, MEROLA learned through motel sources that MC CLAIN indicated he was going to New York City, and, therefore, presumed that MC CLAIN hight meet MIRO in that City. Miami was unable to confirm the

representative and also deals in stocks and bonds x

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departure of MC CLAIN. She Bureau has instructed it desires no investigation regarding MC CLAIN in view of his official position. It should be noted that MEROLA departed for Cuba on April 22, 1959, claiming his departure was necessary in connection with personal business reasons. It should be noted that CARMEN ALOY, PSI under development, informed that on April 22, 1959, MIRO called from New York City on that same date attempting to locate MC CLAIN. 5)

On April 25, 1959, Mrs. JOSEPH MEROLA confidentially, voluntarily informed that RALPH MC CLAIN(s) left a message for MIRO at her residence on April 24, that MC CLAIN was proceeding to Havana, Cuba, and would be in care of the Hilton Hotel. 2014 NORTH RALPH

It should be noted that at the time of interview of RUBEN MIRO GUARDIA by SAs STAFFORD and DAVIS at the Miami International Airport on April 25, 1959, MIRO made a telephone call and stated he was going to contact GEORGEEN SICKELS, staying at the Miami Skyways Motel. MIRO indicated that GEORGEEN SICKELS, he had learned, desired to go to Cuba with him. MIRO made a telephone call, and subsequently stated that he had contacted GEORGEEN SICKELS, and she stated she could not be ready to go that evening, and, therefore, he had to leave her behind. MIRO stated he had never seen SICKELS, and furnished no additional information concerning her.

Inquiry at the Miami Skyways Motel disclosed that SHIRLEY R SICKEIS and her sister, 4043 75th Street, New York, New York, registered at the hotel on April 23, 1959.

On April 29, 1959, GEORGEEN SICKELS, 4008
Mahoning Street, Canton, Ohio, was interviewed at Miami, Florida, by

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The Marine

(Informants continued)

#### **IDENTITY OF INFORMANTS**

MM T-4 is RICHARD JAFFE, contacted by SA GEORGE E. DAVIS, JR. (By request.)

MM T-5 is MM 635-S

#### LOCATION OF ORIGINAL INFORMATION

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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report, and "T" symbols have been utilized only in those instances where identity must be concealed.

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